



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Olympia, Washington 98504

Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) Activity Digest
Office of Community and Rural Health, Washington Department of Health
March-April 2006

Provider Survey Data Currently Being Analyzed

- Benton – Franklin – Primary Care
- Jefferson County – Primary Care
- San Juan County – Mental Health

Designation Analyses Completed and Updates Submitted

Primary Care

Jefferson

- Port Townsend (East Jefferson County): No longer meets federal criteria for a low income designation – less than 30% of the population is below 200% of Federal Poverty Level. The capacity to serve the general population has stabilized in part because almost all area clinics have Rural Health Clinic status. Capacity levels are well above levels required for designation. The Quilicene area is eligible for a Geographic designation and will be updated in October.

Pierce

- Tacoma Eastside (4/17/06): Renewed as a low income designation. The service area redrawn to include areas to the north of Highway 512 and exclude areas to the West of I-5 (Lakewood). This was done to increase chances for re-designation by using I-5 and Highway 512 as boundaries / physical barriers to access. We were unable to re-designate the low-income areas of the Lakewood to west of I-5 because of expansion Community Health Care (FQHC) clinics in the last four years has increased capacity to serve the low income populations. Moderate likelihood of approval.

Dental

No Activity

Mental Health

San Juan

- San Juan County (4/26/2006): Submitted as a new Geographic Health Professional Shortage Area. High likelihood of approval.

Spokane

- Downtown Spokane - Low-Income Homeless, Deer Park – Geographic, South West Spokane County – Geographic, South East Spokane County – Geographic. (4/17/2006) Submitted as new Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas. Although the entire county qualified as a geographic shortage area, Federal rules limit the total population of a designation to 250,000. Downtown Spokane did not meet requirements for a Geographic designation when examined separately.

Designation Requests Approved by Federal Shortage Designation Branch

Primary Care: East **Clallam** County (Port Angeles – Sequim) – Low - Income (3/23/06)
Vancouver **Clark** County – Low-Income (3/02/06)

Dental Care: Lower **Grant** County (Mattawa) – Geographic (4/21/06)
Grays Harbor County – Low Income (3/17/06)
East **Snohomish** County (Darrington) – Geographic (1/17/06)

Mental Health: **Whitman** County - Geographic (3/03/06)

Designations Currently Waiting Federal Shortage Designation Branch Approval April 30, 2006

Months Since Submission	Primary Care	Dental Care	Mental Health	Other	Total
0 - 3	1	0	5		6
4 - 6	10	5	3		18
7 - 9		1			1
9 - 12					
Over 12					

New Developments

Vince Schueler will be leaving the Department of Health and his position as Health Professional Shortage Area Program Manager as of June 1, 2006. To ensure a smooth transition, we have assigned counties with 2006 updates to Office of Community and Rural Health staff on a temporary basis until his position is filled. OCRH county leads are listed in the following table and can be reached as follows:

[Bev Court](#) (360) 236-2809

[Juno Whittaker](#) (360) 236-2812

[Laura Olexa](#) (360) 236-2811

[Mary Looker](#) (360) 236-2808

2006 Health Professional Shortage Area Survey Schedule

County	Primary Partner (OCRH Lead)	Primary Care	Dental Care	Mental Health	Survey(s) Scheduled
Asotin	Asotin County Health District (Mary Looker)	X	X	X	April - Completed
Benton	Benton Franklin Community Health Alliance (Mary Looker)	X			April - May
Clark	Clark County Health District (Juno Whittaker)			X	Summer
Columbia	Columbia County Health District (Laura Olexa)		X		May
Cowlitz	Cowlitz County Health Dept. (Mary Looker)				May
Franklin	Benton Franklin Community Health Alliance (Mary Looker)	X			April - May
Garfield	Garfield County Health District (Laura Olexa)	X	X		April Completed
Island	Island County Health Department (Mary Looker)	X			June/July
Jefferson	Jefferson Health and Human Svc (Laura Olexa)	X			April - Completed
Kitsap	Kitsap County Health District (Laura Olexa)			X	TBD
Kittitas	Kittitas County Health Dept. (Juno Whittaker)	X	X		May
Lewis	Lewis County Public Health (Juno Whittaker)	X			May - June
Pierce	Tacoma Pierce Public Health (Beverly Court)		X		Summer
San Juan	San Juan Dept. of Health and Human Services (Laura Olexa)			X	March Completed
Skagit	Skagit County Dept of Health (Laura Olexa)			X	TBD
Thurston	Thurston Public Health (Juno Whitaker)	X			June - July
Walla Walla	Walla Walla County Health Department (Laura Olexa)		X		April -May
Whitman	Whitman County Health Dept (Laura Olexa)	X	X		June

For an overview of Health Professional Shortage Areas see:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/ocrh/HPSA/hpsa1.htm>